AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application:

1. – 8. (Cancelled)

9. (Currently Amended) A node activation method, comprising:

~~determining whether one or more other nodes that may become active are coupled to the node.~~

reading an identifier from a shared storage node to determine an identified node, wherein the identifier is associated with a chassis management module node;

activating the identified node if the identifier indicates that the identified node was previously active;

if the identified node was not previously active, then selecting one of ~~the~~ a plurality of nodes ~~and the other nodes~~ as ~~initially~~ active based on an address of the one of the plurality of nodes ~~if the node and the other nodes are not indicated by the identifier read from the shared storage node~~;

writing an identifier, associated with the one of the plurality of nodes, ~~of the node~~ to the shared storage node if the one of the plurality of nodes ~~node and the other nodes are~~ is not indicated by the identifier read from the shared storage node;

rewriting the identifier of the one of the plurality of nodes ~~node~~ to the shared storage node periodically if the identified node is initially active; and

selecting the one of the plurality of nodes ~~node~~ as active if the identifier of the one of the plurality of nodes ~~node~~ remains in the shared storage node after a predetermined period of time and a last active node has not informed the one of the plurality of nodes ~~node~~ that ~~it~~ the last active node was ~~is~~ active within the predetermined period of time.

10. (Currently Amended) The node activation method of claim 9, wherein a hardware device external to the one of the plurality of nodes ~~node~~ determines the presence of network nodes and reports present network nodes to the one of the plurality of nodes ~~node~~.

11. (Currently Amended) The node activation method of claim 9, wherein re-writing the identifier of the <u>one of the plurality of nodes</u> ~~node~~ to the shared storage node occurs after re-reading the identifier from the shared storage node and when the identifier from the shared storage node is not the identifier of the <u>one of the plurality of nodes</u> ~~node~~.

12. (Currently Amended) The node activation method of claim 9, further comprising communicating with the <u>plurality of nodes</u> ~~one or more other nodes~~ that ~~could become active and~~ are coupled to the <u>identified</u> node and selecting an active node from among the <u>plurality of</u> ~~node and the other~~ nodes based on <u>prior</u> activity ~~prior to~~ <u>of</u> the <u>active</u> node ~~and one or more other nodes that could become active last being de-energized~~.

13. (Currently Amended) The node activation method of claim 9, wherein <u>the plurality of nodes</u> ~~node and the other nodes~~ are coupled to a common network.

14. (Original) The node activation method of claim 9, wherein the identifier is a globally unique identifier.

15. (Original) The node activation method of claim 9, wherein the identifier is a system unique identifier.

16. (Currently Amended) The node activation method of claim 9, wherein the one of the <u>plurality of nodes</u> ~~node and the other nodes that is~~ selected as initially active is ~~the one of the~~ <u>a</u> node ~~and the other nodes~~ having a lowest identifier value.

17. (Currently Amended) The node activation method of claim 9, wherein the one of the <u>plurality of nodes</u> ~~node and the other nodes that is~~ selected as initially active is ~~the one of the~~ <u>a</u> node ~~and the other nodes~~ having a highest identifier value.

18. – 30. (Cancelled)